Project Study Area

The study area includes the following subareas: regional setting, project area setting, PCWA water service area, and American River Basin water service area.

Regional Setting

The regional setting encompasses the water bodies and waterways that may be influenced by changes in CVP or SWP operations in response to increased diversions from the American River watershed, including the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project is one of several reasonably foreseeable actions that would result in changed operations of Reclamation's CVP American River Division facilities, including Folsom Dam and Reservoir. Reclamation's coordinated operations between Folsom and Shasta/Trinity reservoirs result in a need to consider the Shasta CVP facilities and upper and lower Sacramento River. Additionally, integrated operations between the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Reclamation may affect Oroville Reservoir, lower Feather River, and Delta facilities. These are all included in the regional study area. Other future actions, interrelated to the American River system, also are considered in the evaluation. These include Yuba/Bear River system, Cosumnes River/Sly Park-Jenkinson Lake (CVP facilities), and the upper forks and tributaries of the American River. The resources within the regional setting area would not be affected directly by the construction, operation, or maintenance of the pump station project, and are therefore also considered to define the indirect effect study area.

Project Area Setting

The project area setting represents the direct effect study area and encompasses all areas where the direct effects of construction, operation, and maintenance of the Proposed Project or alternatives would occur for a particular resource topic.

Placer County Water Agency Water Service Area

PCWA will continue to convey and deliver the MFP water diverted from the pump station to Service Area Zones 1 and 5. This water would be used to meet current needs, serve as back-up to the Drum-Spaulding Project water, and accommodate growth as projected in approved general, specific, and community planning documentation adopted for these areas of western Placer County.

Water Service Area for U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Future Central Valley Project Actions in the American River Basin

Reclamation has identified several reasonably foreseeable federal actions that, over the next 25 years, would result in substantial changes in CVP system operations and an increase of American River or Sacramento River diversions for M&I and agricultural water supplies for use in the American River Basin.

The cumulative service area analysis evaluates the potential secondary, indirect effects of providing increased water supplies to lands within the service boundaries of the water purveyors and includes lands within Placer, El Dorado, Sacramento, Alameda, and Contra Costa counties

where impacts to environmental resources could result from the collective actions associated with future planned urbanization. Maps depicting these service areas are provided on **Figures S-12** and **S-13**.

Impact Assessment Framework and Methodology

Implementation of the Proposed Project or alternatives is anticipated to produce two distinct types of effects within the local or regional setting: (1) direct impacts related to construction and operation of the facilities (such as noise); and (2) indirect diversion-related effects (such as changes in hydrology) resulting from the increased diversion of water from the North Fork American River. The facilities impacts are localized, and are mostly construction-related; the potential effects of increased diversions are long-term, and may affect environmental resources beyond the local project area. It was determined that future changes in water supply system operations associated with the Proposed Project and other actions evaluated for the cumulative analysis would not result in changes to the Cosumnes River, nor the Yuba/Bear River system. These water bodies are therefore not addressed in any detail in the analysis.

Issues Identified and Considered in the EIS/EIR Process

During all public and agency stakeholder meetings held prior to and during preparation of the Draft EIS/EIR, participants were provided with a brief presentation concerning the project and particular challenges associated with each of the project alternatives, including the No Action/No Project Alternative. A summary listing of issues and comments identified by the public, resource agencies, and project proponents is presented below.

Water Supply and Hydrology

- Commitment to Water Forum purveyor-specific agreement elements
- River channel stability – cofferdam debris movement
- Long-term stability of the diversion structure
- Backwater effect at Tamaroo Bar
- Flood event effects on project facilities
- Meet increased demand by conservation or water exchanges with other purveyors
- Instream flow/diversion effect
- Discuss possible use of pump station facilities by GDPUD, identify any rate increase associated with facility construction
- Consistency of this project with the CVPIA PROSIM 99 model
- Groundwater supplies

Fish Resources and Aquatic Habitat

- Special-status species – chinook salmon, steelhead (flow, diversion structure)
- Instream flow requirements for fisheries
- Water chemistry changes – effects on special-status fish species migration (Auburn Ravine)
- Restoration of coho salmon to the north and middle forks of river (otters and eagles)
- Restore the river channel